(d) to what extent, they have utilised this amount; and

(e) what check Government propose to have to ensure proper utilisation of the funds?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To begin with, the scheme will cover about 3.42 lakh most needy growers of these commodities from amongst those having operational holdings upto 4 hectares.

(c) and (d) Do not arise at this stage.

(e) A High Power Committee will monitor the proper working and utilisation of the Fund.

Closing of Central Water Commission

†*371. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the main tasks of the Central Water Commission;

(b) whether it is a fact that the task for development of water resources is a subject of the State list and as a result thereof most of the task with regard to water resources is executed by the State; and

(c) the reasons for not closing the same in the public interest while utility of commission has become less?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) Central Water Commission is an apex technical organization in the field of water resources development in the country and is the main technical arm of the Ministry of Water Resources. Central Water Commission (CWC) is involved with following tasks:

Resource assessment; macro level planning; project planning including hydrological studies, designs, environmental and rehabilitation & resettlement issues; project evaluation; extending

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

advice on planning and design problems, execution of water resources development projects and project monitoring; operational flood forecasting & dam safety aspects in operation of water resources projects; research and development; standardization and documentation; guidance/advisory role in report of committees, boards etc. and technical support to different Ministries.

(b) (i) As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, Entry 17 of List-II (State List), "Water that is to say, water supplies, irrigation and canals, drainage and embankments, water storage and water power subject to the provisions of Entry 56 of List I" is with the State Governments.

However, as per Entry 56 of List-I (Union List) "Regulation and development of inter-state rivers and river valleys to the extent to which such regulation and development under the control of the Union is declared by Parliament by law to be expedient in the public interest" is with the Union Government.

From the above it is clear that the regulation and development of inter-state rivers is the primary responsibility of the Union Government for which Central Water Commission extends necessary technical support to the Government.

Central Water Commission works on specialized areas of macro level planning in water resources development sector which comes under Entry 20 of List-III (Concurrent List) on "Economic and social planning". It performs technical tasks with respect to responsibility of the Central Government on Inter-State Boards and Inter-State Water Disputes.

(c) In view of the present functions of CWC and constitutional provisions as enumerated at (a) and (b) above, it is necessary to continue the CWC to discharge sovereign functions of the Union. In fact, it will be required to play a more important & pro-active role in view of increasing Inter-State issues in river basin management, and development needs in water sector of the country as well las increasing international emphasis on water related issues.